

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-18, 35, 36, 38, 39-41, 44 and 45 are pending in the application.

The undersigned would like to thank Examiner Baxter for the courtesies extended during the August 31, 2005 telephone interview.

By the present Amendment, independent Claims 1 and 35 have been amended as discussed during the interview and as set forth in the Interview Summary.

It is submitted that Claims 1, 3, 4, 7-18, 35, 36, 38, 39-41, 44 and 45 are patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, an early Notice of Allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in connection with this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (412) 263-4340 to discuss such matters.

Respectfully submitted,



Alan G. Towner  
Registration No. 32,949  
Pietragallo, Bosick & Gordon  
One Oxford Centre, 38th Floor  
301 Grant Street  
Pittsburgh, PA 15219  
Attorney for Applicants

(412) 263-4340